

# Curriculum & Instruction

UTAH STATE OFFICE  
OF  
EDUCATION



July 2009

## Curriculum Highlights

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STAR Tutoring improves K-6 Tier II students' reading skills. Last year there were over 6,000 STAR tutors state-wide. Approximately 300 elementary schools are currently using STAR. Teachers can earn 14 relicensure points for attending the full day of training. STAR Training dates for the 2009-2010 school year, held at USOE are Aug. 14th, Sept. 11th (Sevier School District Training Center), September 18, October 16 and 21, and November 13 and 20. For more information on STAR, STAR Advanced, STAR Parent, Cross-Age Tutoring, to schedule training in your district, or to register, phone Sue Okroy at 801-538-7765.



**District Superintendents and Charter School Directors** should have received and completed a request for Curriculum and Instruction content representatives. These representatives will be invited to attend meetings throughout the year, as appropriate. Hopefully, you've completed the list which needs to be returned to Patty Hunt at [patty.hunt@schools.utah.gov](mailto:patty.hunt@schools.utah.gov), via U.S. Postal, or by fax to 801-538-7769.



150 elementary educators gathered in Granite District in late June for the USOE 2-day **Just for the Health of It** health and physical education summer camp for elementary classroom teachers. The keynote speaker was Dr. Steven Aldana, an internationally recognized expert on childhood obesity and staff wellness. Teachers participated in many learn-by-doing activities.



2008-2009 brought another successful Utah Principal's Literacy Institute. Over 40 applications have been submitted for the 2009-2010 Institute.

Congratulations to the **2008 Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**: Vickie Ahlstrom (Science) and Natalie Robinson (Mathematics). Both teach in the Alpine School District. Best wishes to the **2009 PAEMST** finalists from whom an awardee will be chosen next year: In **Mathematics**: **Joy Coates**, Cedar City High School; **Troy Jones**, Willowcreek Middle School; **Janet Sutorius**, Juab High School; In **Science**: **Dawn Monson**, Joel P. Jensen Middle School; **Amy Pace**, Desert Hills High School; **Matthew Smith**, Salt Lake Center for Science Education. Please consider nominating your best elementary mathematics and science teachers for this award when nominations open again this fall at [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org).

**Regional Curriculum Directors Meetings** have been scheduled for the following dates and locations (all times are 9:00-3:00):

August 10: Box Elder District Office

August 11: Canyons District Office

August 12: Carbon District Office

August 13: Iron District Office

Additional details can be found at: <http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/directors/default.htm>.

Agenda:

9:00-10:00 Assessment Directors

10:00-12:30 Curriculum Directors

12:30-1:00 Lunch

1:00-3:00 New Consolidated Application Process (Formerly CUSAP). There will be a follow-up training on Friday, August 21, 10:00-12:00, at USOE in the boardrooms.

The **Governors Native American Summit** will be held at Thanksgiving Point on Sept. 2-3, 2009. The topics will include American Indian Education, Healthcare, Homeland Security, and Business. The American Indian Legislative Committee will also address the summit.

**Title Formula Grant Title VII meetings** are held monthly which include professional development, district updates and planning, Title VII training, collaboration, and planning for their individual programs. There are many excellent programs and support opportunities for our Native American students. For more information, contact Dr. Chuck Foster at 801-538-7838.

The **Goshute Language Program**: The Goshute language is becoming extinct. The language is being revitalized through a partnership between the University of Utah's Linguistic Department, Tooele School District, and USOE. 25 students participated in the project.



313 applications for Reading Endorsements were submitted last year by Utah teachers. Of those 276 met the necessary requirements and were approved.



Congratulations go to **Tim Bailey**, a 5th grade teacher at Escalante Elementary School in Salt Lake School District.. Tim is Utah's History Teacher of the Year. He was chosen because he exemplifies leadership and provides inspiration for children and teachers.

\* The **3-Tiered Model of Mathematics Instruction** is complete and has been vetted by mathematics coordinators and Rural Schools attendees. A final draft should be available soon.

\* A first draft of the **Utah Mathematics Steering Committee** recommendations has been completed and will be presented to the State Board, districts, and charter schools in the near future.

\* The **UPSTART** project is up and running. Waterford is doing an excellent job of recruiting and serving project participants. The RFP for the independent evaluation of this project was sent out for a Best and Final response to the three offerors.

\* The draft document of the **Social Studies K-2 Core** was reviewed by teachers and administrators at the Rural School Conference and Charter School Conference.

\* A new **K-2 Science Core** has been completed (we have never had one before). It is currently being reviewed by districts and we are preparing to bring it to the Board.

\* The Curriculum and Instruction Section is preparing to provide deeper support for instructional best practices focused on excellent primary (Tier I) instruction and differentiating instruction, including a strong emphasis on instructional strategies for closing the achievement gap.

### July Dates to Remember

**August 4-6: Core Academy** Emery High School

**August 10-13: Regional meetings.** Please see details previous column.

**August 14: STAR Training** USOE Board Room